



**Office of the Attorney General
Paul G. Summers**

NEWS RELEASE

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**APPLICATION PROCESS BEGINS FOR SHARE OF \$5.9 MILLION IN VITAMINS
PRICE-FIXING AGREEMENT**

Tennessee Attorney General Paul G. Summers announced today that his office will begin accepting applications from groups across the state seeking grants from Tennessee's \$5.9 million share of a national agreement involving a ten year price-fixing conspiracy among vitamin manufacturers.

The money is Tennessee's share of a multi-state agreement following a lawsuit against six companies that were allegedly illegally conspiring to raise the price of vitamins bought by consumers and the price of vitamin products used to manufacture such products as cereal, meat and baby food.

Applications will be accepted for projects to be used exclusively for the improvement of health and/or nutrition of Tennessee citizens and/or the advancement of nutritional, dietary, or agricultural science. A distribution committee of people experienced in health, nutrition, and/or agriculture science will determine who receives the funds. The Circuit Court in Jefferson County will have final approval of the distribution plan.

"Because of this conspiracy, Tennesseans paid more than they should have for many grocery items they purchased," Attorney General Paul G. Summers said. "Since it would be virtually impossible to determine how much money each Tennessean would be entitled to, the distribution method established by the courts is the best way to ensure as many Tennesseans as possible benefit."

You can visit www.attorneygeneral.state.tn.us for information concerning the agreement and the application process. The deadline for submission of applications is **October 17, 2001**.